



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

MINUTES

**May 10, 2005**

**2:00 PM**

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Headquarters  
645 New London Ave. – Cranston, RI

Agenda

**I. Call to Order/Attendance**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. In attendance were:

Representative Raymond E. Gallison, Jr.	Walter Combs, DOH
Cathy Duquette, HARI	Tom Gardner, TSA
Joe Salter, TSA	Col. Darren Delaney, RISP
William O'Neill, DHS	Representative Peter Ginaitt
Steven J. Kenney, Naval Undersea Warfare Center	Carolyn Cronin, WPRO
John Soscia, RIEMA	John Jackson, NE Gas Co
Albert Tardie, Gov. Commission. on Disabilities	Janice McClanaghan, RISEO
Al Araujo, Pawtucket EMA	Jim Ball, RIDEM
Leo Kennedy, Cranston Fire	Douglas Brown, RIPTA
Audra Dolan VCRI	James Lanni, RIDPUC
Peter Popko, USCG	

**II. Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2005**

The chairman requested the approval of the previous meeting minutes from March 22, 2005 pending any corrections. The minutes were approved.

**III. Introduction**

A. Comments from the Chairman  
*Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty*

Chairman Fogarty began the meeting by introducing Attorney General Lynch to discuss the Richard Clarke report on the KeySpan LNG proposal. He acknowledged the Attorney General's hard work to ensure this issue is looked at for what is best not only in terms of energy but public safety, health and welfare as well.

#### **IV. KeySpan LNG Proposal**

- A. Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch – Clarke Report
- B. Representative Raymond E. Gallison, Jr.

The Attorney General began by thanking the chair and vice-chair for their hard work in helping to make sure that the best and safest decision is made when it comes to the LNG proposal. He then briefly reviewed some of the highlights of the proposal by KeySpan and Richard Clarke's findings.

General Lynch then noted that the Clarke Report is available in its entirety online at ([http://www.riag.state.ri.us/LNG\\_Good%20Harbor2.pdf](http://www.riag.state.ri.us/LNG_Good%20Harbor2.pdf)). He reviewed the path of the LNG tankers up Narragansett Bay to the proposed site. It was noted that the path for the tanker to the Fall River site is 26 miles, 23 miles of which are Rhode Island waters. Sixty percent of the Mount Hope Bay is Rhode Island waters. It is 29 miles up the harbor to Providence. The deliveries will come during both the day and night, the schedule for delivery will be according to high tide. Security must be maintained for the tanker on the way in, on the way out and during the dislodging process, which takes 24 hours. The tankers range from 900-1,000 feet long. Because of the security zone, when the tanker is travelling up the bay, it shuts down the waterway. In comparison, when a tanker goes into Boston, it must travel up a bay of similar width for 6 miles of coastline, compared to 23+ miles for Providence and Fall River. A draft EIS statement has been issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the final statement has not yet been released.

Representative Gallison was introduced to share information on the LNG proposal. The Representative noted that former Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge stated the importance to not provide new targets of opportunity for terrorists. The Coast Guard has already said that they cannot guarantee the safety of the port or the tankers coming up the bay, given the capability of the terrorists. Gangs have now joined with the Al Qaeda network, providing some of the legwork for the terrorist activity. The terrorists have already stated that they want to hit our urban areas, disrupt our economic system, try to disrupt our oil and gas lines, in order to cause major devastation. Clearly, an expansion of the KeySpan facility and the tankers that come along with the expansion provide a new and larger target of opportunity for terrorists. Both the Representative and the Attorney General agreed on the need for LNG, but for it to be delivered in the right place. There are viable alternatives and they need to be explored. The floor was opened up to questions.

Chairman Fogarty asked what the timetable was for FERC's decision on the expansion proposal. The Attorney General said that if he had to pick a number today, that it would be within the next 30 – 60 days. Chairman Fogarty then asked who is responsible for security of the transport and who would be paying for the security. The Attorney General responded that in Everett, the cost is \$8,500 - \$10,000 for each tanker arriving. FERC has the most authority in who controls the security. Chairman Fogarty asked if an economic disruption analysis has been performed on the KeySpan proposal. The Attorney General responded that there is no hard number that he knows of, but that it is a good idea because of the future potential for development.

General Centracchio stated that in emergency planning and homeland security, you must assume that the possibility is 100% that you could have a catastrophic scenario. As our resources stand today, the security necessary for such a facility requires an inordinate amount of resources. An attack on a tanker or expanded facility would immediately exhaust consequence capability in all of our hospitals, as well as our ability to evacuate on the highway and air. In General Centracchio's opinion, it would be absolutely irresponsible to locate this facility in an urban area. It clearly exceeds our capacity to bring to bear the resources that would be required not only to mitigate it, but also to deal with consequences. General Centracchio stated that positioning of this site in the Port of Providence is not feasible and if the intent to commit a suicide attack is there, the (terrorist) will succeed and we will have to deal with the consequences.

General Centracchio pointed out that federal homeland security funds cannot be used to pay for the cost of any local or state police that would be used as security for the tanker delivery. Representative Ginaitt then asked if it were true that funds were being taken away from smaller cities and rerouted to bigger cities with a greater risk for attacks. General Centracchio confirmed this and stated that RI lost about 37% of funds because it is not considered "high risk." The Attorney General noted that Rhode Island is the second most densely populated state in the nation.

Chairman Fogarty presented a resolution opposing the expansion of the KeySpan facility. A motion was made and seconded, the resolution passed. The United States Coast Guard and the TSA abstained from voting.

- II. End of Season Energy Update** – Janice McClanaghan, *Rhode Island State Energy Office*  
Janice McClanaghan reported that heating oil is 50-cents higher than the average last year at this time. RIHEAP program has 26, 697 clients during the last season. Emergency Fuel Program 64,019 households and provided over 5,600 emergency deliveries costing RI \$1million. The office is still waiting for legislation on the affordable heating program to be introduced in the House and Senate. They are anticipating high gas and electric shut offs this summer due to the high prices. The Chairman stated he wanted to study closely the issue of shut offs because the State doesn't have the resources to handle the problem on its own.
- III. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Update** – John Soscia, *RIEMA*  
The DPS met last month regarding the rollout of the FY05 grant process. The state homeland security planning has approximately \$10.2 million available for equipment, planning, exercise and training. Approximately \$8.2 million of that was set aside for local programs. Approximately \$6 million was allocated using a formula to each and every jurisdiction in the state. The remainder was used for local programs such as the state and regional response teams, hospitals, and homeland security initiative. Approximately \$970,000 of the state portion will be distributed through a competitive grant process to state level agencies and non-profit agencies. The law enforcement terrorism prevention program, a total of \$3.7 million, \$2.9 million of which comes out of the 80% that goes to the locals with cooperation of the police chiefs association, commit \$2 million to interoperable communications and the 800mhz project. The remaining \$900,000 will go to training for law enforcement deterrent, detection and prevention of terrorism programs. \$700,000 for state initiatives, distributed through competitive grants to law enforcement agencies at the state level. The citizens core program, at \$130,000 will be retained at the state level, there is no minimum pass through to administer and coordinate at the state level citizens core initiatives.
- This year the state took a 37% cut in the total grant awarded from \$21 million to about \$16 million. It is important to note that two additional programs were wrapped under that umbrella. So from 2004-2005, \$21 million dropped to closer to \$14 million in 2005. The allocations have been made to jurisdictions. The end of April completed a federal requirement to forward initial spending implementation plans to the department of homeland security which indicates where every penny of this money will go and where it will be spent in the next year and a half. Awards will be handed out in the beginning of June.
- Chairman Fogarty reiterated a concern that General Centracchio has from the very beginning. Rhode Island has some very real needs and we must increase state funding on top of federal funding.
- IV. Adjournment**  
The Lt. Governor motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 P.M.